1	2
10. Madhya Pradesh	2378
11. Maharashtra	385
12. Manipur	58
13. Meghalaya	104
14. Nagaland	123
15. Orissa	866
16. Punjab	..
17. Rajasthan	713
18. Sikkim	30
19. Tamil Nadu	..
20. Tripura	118
21. Uttar Pradesh	2817
22. West Bengal	841
TOTAL :	13196

Relief to drug consumers

2697. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times Evening News on 7th March, 1988 under the heading "Drug Unit reliefs of little use to consumers";

(b) whether it is a fact that Category I drugs have been exempted from excise duty in the proposed budget;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these drugs are used mainly for the National Health Programme;

(d) whether it is also a fact that more than 90 per cent of the medicines based on these drugs are purchased by the Ministry of Health; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that there will be very little relief to the consumer whereas by levying of excise duty on other drugs there will be a heavy burden, apart from steep increases in the prices of essential medicines upto 300 per cent during the last two months?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Category I consists of drugs for National Health Programme identified by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(e) No, Sir.

Bulk Drugs for Selvigon Tablets

2698. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1198 given in the